

# Durham County Juvenile Crime Prevention Council

## Annual Planning Committee Summary Report

### Risk Assessment Summary

The Durham County JCPC Annual Planning Committee reviewed data gleaned from the Juvenile Risk Assessment instrument administered by Juvenile Court Counselors. The Juvenile Risk Assessment is an instrument used to predict the likelihood of the juvenile being involved in future delinquent behavior. It is completed after juveniles are referred with a complaint alleging that a delinquent act has occurred and prior to adjudication of the juvenile. For some youth, a number of the individual item ratings may be heavily dependent upon information reported by the juvenile or the parent(s). For these items *(represented by percentages with a star next to them)*, there is a likelihood of under-reporting the incidence of a particular behavior and the actual incidence may be higher than suggested by these figures. In those cases, the figure should be interpreted as a measure of the minimum level of occurrence.

#### **Durham County Risk Factor Observations: FY 2007-2008**

243 dispositions in FY 07-08 represented a 7% decrease from the 250 dispositions in FY 06-07.

#### Individual Domain:

- 87% of court-involved youth were age 12 or older at the time their first delinquent offense was alleged.
- 45% of youth at Juvenile Court Intake have had some prior contact with court. This is 3% higher than the state average.  
23% of the youth referred to intake had 2 or 3 prior referrals. 67% of Durham youth had no prior adjudication (6% lower than the state average).
- 32% of court-involved youth exhibited runaway behavior by leaving home and not voluntarily returning within a 24-hour period.
- 20% of youth are believed to have some substance use at disposition needing further assessment or treatment. Research regarding youth substance abuse indicates self-reporting may be under-reported.

#### School Domain:

- 11% of offenders have moderate school behavior problems as defined by unexcused absences, and short and long-term suspensions. 72% of offenders have serious problems regarding behaviors in the school setting (an increase of 7% from FY 05-06).

#### Peer Domain:

- Youth identified as gang members or those associating with a gang increased to 28% from 25% in FY 06-07, remaining over twice the state average in this area.
- 15% of youth were assessed as having peers that are a good support and influence.  
25% of youth assessed as either lacking pro-social peers or sometimes associating with delinquent peers.  
Regularly associating with others involved in delinquent activity (decreased from 34% in 06-07 to 26% in 07-08).

#### Community Domain:

- 61% of the parents/guardians of youth seen at intake were assessed as willing and able to supervise their children.  
33% of parents were assessed as willing but unable to supervise or unwilling to supervise their children.

## Needs Assessment Summary

The Durham County JCPC Annual Planning Committee also reviewed data gleaned from the Juvenile Needs Assessment instrument administered by Juvenile Court Counselors prior to court disposition of a juvenile. The Juvenile Needs Assessment is an instrument used to examine a youth's needs in the various areas of his/her life: The Individual Domain, The School Domain, The Peer Domain, and the Community Domain. This instrument was designed to detect service intervention needs as an aid in service planning. As with the Juvenile Risk Assessment, some of the individual item ratings may be heavily dependent upon information reported by the juvenile or the parent(s). For these items *(represented by percentages with a star next to them)*, there is a likelihood of under-reporting the incidence of a particular behavior and the actual incidence may be higher than suggested by these figures. In those cases, the figure should be interpreted as a measure of the minimum level of occurrence.

### **Durham County Elevated Needs Observations: FY 2007-2008**

45% of court involved youth had medium needs and 16% had high unmet needs in the individual, school, peer and community domains. JCPC Programs should address one or more of the identified needs.

#### Individual Domain:

- 19% of offenders received some substance abuse assessment and 33% receive some treatment. Note: this is the same as last year. This number is believed to be influenced by under reporting.
- 12% of offenders had exhibited dangerous sexual practices. A 2% decrease over the previous year, but 50% higher than the State average.
- 56% of offenders were assessed as needing further mental health assessment. (A 3% decrease). In FY 06-07 the Durham County Court Counselor's Office made 71 referrals for psychological assessments and 6 for forensic assessments.

#### School Domain:

- 72% of court involved youth have serious school behavior problems as defined by unexcused absences, short and long-term suspensions.
- 40% are below grade level, more than twice the State average of 19%.

#### Peer Domain:

- 20% of court involved youth have some association with delinquent peers and 27% regularly associate with delinquent peers.  
28% of Durham County's court involved youth are believed to have gang associations, significantly higher than the state average of 12%.

#### Community Domain:

- 88% of offenders are living at home and having their basic living needs met.
- 22% of offenders come from homes that contain domestic discord. (A 2% decrease). This number is the same as state average.
- 62% of offenders come from homes with an assessment of marginal family supervision skills. (A 2% decrease).
- 11% of families of offenders are assessed with alcohol and substance abuse. Research indicates a high correlation between family substance abuse and juvenile delinquency. It is possible that this number is under-reported.
- 23% of offenders' families have some family criminal history, a family member is under court supervision or is gang involved.

**Gaps, Trends and Other Data**

Major gaps in available service identified by the Durham County JCPC include the development and strengthening of effective and accessible alternatives to suspension programs, gang prevention and intervention programs and programs that increase parental involvement and support. Durham County JCPC is particularly interested in programs that are culturally competent, inclusive and accessible to youth and their families.

**Other Data**

Juvenile Justice System (Calendar Year 2008):

Total Juvenile Complaints	1,021
Delinquent	867
Undisciplined	154
Detention Center Admissions	388
Youth Development Center Commitments	28

School System (FY 2008-2009)

Total number of short-term suspension	32,462
Total number of students suspended short-term	3,292
Percent of Students suspended short-term	10.14%
Total number of long-term suspensions	69